

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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Register of the Week.

Despatches from Sierra Leone to the War office say the British have gained a signal victory over the Sofas. Colonel Ellis, the commander of the British forces, while in pursuit of the enemy, found the town Korra Yemna literally depopulated; the Sofas had slaughtered men, women and children. He learned from a friendly tribe, the Konnos, that the main body of the Sofas had crossed the Rum river on December 18th. He took the enemy by surprise on the morning of the 2nd of January. Although the place had been strongly fortified the British captured it in a quarter of an hour. The despatches say that two hundred Sofas were killed and seventy taken prisoners. Over four hundred slaves, women and children, were rescued. The horde of Sofas slave traders were completely dispersed. The only casualty the British sustained was the severe wounding of Lieut. Gwynn and one private.

We are quite pleased to state there was no truth in the report of Bishop Bagshaw's death. Some of the American Catholic papers took it for granted, when it was cabled, "the Bishop of Nottingham was dead," that it must be the Right Rev. Dr. Bagshaw, forgetting there is an Anglican Bishop also of that place, whose death it was which occurred.

The press is awakening in Great Britain to the great danger to be feared from the drink curse. Of fifty-six cases at the Newcastle-on-Tyne Police Court recently, forty-seven were drunken charges. "It is a very large proportion," says the *Newcastle Chronicle*, "and clearly shows that drink finds four-fifths of the work for magistrates and police. Can nothing be done to lessen it?" The *Liverpool Catholic Times* says on the subject: "That is a question which may well be asked in all parts of the country, for what is true of Newcastle is, unfortunately, equally true of London, Liverpool, Manchester, and almost every town throughout the land. Yet most politicians and social reformers shirk the subject. They have all sorts of remedies for the relief of distress, but they lack sufficient courage to go to the root of the evil. According to a careful estimate the money that has been squandered in drink in the United Kingdom during the past thirty years would provide the sum of £900 for every household in the country."

The Aigues Mortes affair is still a sore that does not heal very easily, although there is a better feeling in France towards Italy since Signor Crispi has taken hold of the reins of government in the latter country, and who is thought to be well disposed

towards that Republic, yet the relations of the two countries are not the most cordial. "One of the first acts of Crispi's administration," says a Roman correspondent, "was to instruct the Italian representative at Paris to present to the French Government a claim for 450,000 francs, as indemnity for the Italians killed at Aigues Mortes by the French workmen last summer. The French Government, while acknowledging this claim, have on their side advanced a claim for damages caused to French property in Rome, Genoa and Naples, by the popular anti-French demonstrations in consequence of the Aigues Mortes assassinations. The memory of that event is not calculated to promote affection between the two peoples."

Italy's greatest difficulty now is her trying financial position, and this must be coped with at once. Crispi's new Ministry will attempt to establish harmony between income and expenditure. This will have to be obtained by economies in the military department without prejudice to the efficiency of the army, and by additional taxation. There is great alarm as to how the latter would be received, it being the opinion of many a revolution would be the result. The country is taxed to its utmost, and this, combined with the recent bank scandals and the attempts to hush them up, would arouse a feeling that is only smouldering now, but would soon burst out into a strong flame. A laborer in Italy pays twenty per cent. of his earnings to the Government, and to the proprietor of the land about forty per cent. Agriculture, being so burdened with taxation, is unprofitable, and the consequence is, lands otherwise productive are let go untilled. California and Africa, now possessing large vineyards, have been in strong rivalry in the sale of Italian wines. The army has to be maintained at its present state, as such is the will of the King and the obligation of the Triple Alliance, and the funds are not forthcoming to sustain this. It is well known that Signor Crispi is not very friendly towards the Triple Alliance. If he is not antagonistic, he is utterly indifferent to it.

The new President of the Swiss Republic, Colonel Emil Frey, who began his term of office with the New Year, served in the United States army as a volunteer during the Civil War. Colonel Frey was born at Arlesheim, Switzerland, Oct. 24, 1838. He was educated at an excellent school at Basle, and then went through the University of Jena. At the Military School of Switzerland he took an officer's training, and studied agricultural science in Germany; and for the sake of furthering his observations

and experiences in that line, he came to America, where in 1861, when the Civil War broke out, he was working as a farm hand in Illinois. He enlisted in one of the companies and was appointed Second Lieutenant. At Gettysburg he, with some other officers, was taken prisoner. He was selected afterwards as a hostage for certain Confederate prisoners and taken to Libbey Prison, and endured great sufferings and privations when confined here. Colonel Frey returned to Switzerland after a long absence with his health shattered. He engaged himself in editorial work and soon became an active participant in all social movements in his own country. In 1887 he became a member of the Swiss Congress, and so satisfactorily did he fill his position in the Cabinet that he was honored with the Vice-Presidency of that body, and as a natural sequence of the civil service of Switzerland, the Vice-President is elected for the Presidency of the Swiss Confederation.

The Rev. Thomas J. Conaty, D.D., of Worcester, Mass., gave the second lecture in the course of the Catholic Club of Harvard University. His subject was "American Citizenship," which he treated in a most eloquent manner. Father Conaty is President of the Catholic Summer School, and the *Pilot* says, "has labored always for the two-fold object of the promotion of the true Christian and true citizen spirit." We take the following short extract from this delightful lecture, which will apply to men and women of other countries than the United States: "True men and true women make a country's greatness. They, by their efforts and sacrifices, make our country a fit place to live in. Every good man has in his heart the desire to make his country better. He who toils to develop the resources of his country, to build it up, to make it richer, grander, nobler, is a true man and a loyal citizen."

The Hon. William F. Vilas, United States Senator from Wisconsin, has denounced the A.P.A. in a most scathing letter of some length to the *Catholic Citizen* of Milwaukee, Wis. In it, speaking of how Catholics should act, he says: "This is not your (the Catholics), special controversy. Natural as it is for you, upon whom the first impact of offence falls, to lead resistance or retaliation, you have no greater interest in this invasion of liberty than every one and all your fellows in the ultimate result. You cannot be deprived of your equal rights as citizens of a free country until all citizens also lose theirs in a similar degree. Ours is a government of law, resting upon the intelligent justice of freemen. It impairs a great cause to make it appear as only the

interest of some instead of all. When a secret society can make dangerous headway in political affairs among us, it will be time, not for your special alarm, but for terror to us all. It is not your peculiar duty to deal with this confederation. It is a public cause and a public duty."

The election of a new Superior-General for the Priests of St. Sulpice took place in Paris on the 15th instant, and resulted in the nomination of Rev. Abbe Captier, procurator of the Sulpicians in Rome. He was formerly Superior of the Grand Seminary at Orleans, and has always acted for the Community at the Vatican. Abbe Captier, now 65 years old, is a native of Lyons. One of his brothers, a celebrated Dominican priest and head of a Dominican house near Paris, was put to death during the Commune.

At a meeting of the School Board at Nottingham (England) Canon Monahan severely criticized the religious training given in the Board School, and moved: "That, in order to lessen the evils arising from the present system of religious teaching in Board Schools, it be hereby enacted, and be a rule of the Nottingham School Board, that no teacher or other person whomsoever who does not profess belief in the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ shall be allowed to give religious instruction in any school under the Board."

Carrara, where are produced the celebrated marbles, was lately the scene of anarchist troubles. A number of anarchists from the neighboring district sought to enter the city, and thus unite with those in the city; but were prevented by the military. Finding this impossible they scattered over the country in different directions. Later on an encounter took place between a squadron of cavalry and 500 anarchists engaged in destroying a bridge. Eight persons altogether were killed and several wounded. The town was since declared under siege.

If G. W. Smalley is to be believed Italy has played false to the Triple Alliance. Such is the last chapter of secret political history written by Marquis di Rudini—upon which no doubt need rest, as it is Prince Bismarck who, through a Hamburg Journal, makes the facts public, and it is the present Prime Minister of Italy who admits their truth. Detach Italy from Germany and Austria, transfer her power to the other side, and the military strength is in favor of France and Russia. Rudini had, while renewing the alliance with Germany and Austria, secretly negotiated with Russia.

Father Caron brother of the Postmaster General, has gone to the West Indies as a missionary.